means an enormous decrease in the total production of grass, throughout the season. On the other hand, experience and experiment taught that, if cattle were kept out for a time, the grass would grow to double and treble the quantity available under present arrangements. Where land is available therefore, it should be demarcated and fenced off, and cattle should be scrupulously excluded therefrom till the hot-weather when the general grazing in the village has dried up. The importance of this will be fully exemplified in Dr. Holker's report which is expected to come out shortly. One incidental advantage of this system would be that bushes and trees will grow and cover what is now bare land, and furnish a moderate supply of fuel, which again will go some way towards diminishing the burning of cattle manure which, if not a chemical, is a physical loss to the soil.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestion is good and will be noted. As a matter of fact, the grass on lands, the right of grazing on which is sold annually, is preserved till it has well grown and is sold only then. As to lands which are exclusively set apart as free grazing, it is entirely within the power of village communities to conserve the grass growing thereon. The Deputy Commissioners will however be asked to report whether there are any exceptional tracts where the suggestion can be adopted with advantage.

Subject No. 3.
Advance to laborers.

Summary of Representation.—It is admitted on all hands that the existing law is unsatisfactory, and does not meet the requirements of the employers of labor, various proposals have been made to remedy this, but no satisfactory solution of the question has been reached. After long experience and careful consideration, Mr. Elliot had drawn up the draft of a measure which he would propose, and this he handed over to the Dewan for the consideration of Government. (*Vide* Appendix D.) This draft had been shown to several Planters and experienced officials and others who were capable of forming a sound opinion in regard to the measure, and he had found so universal an agreement in regard to the value of the main principle of the Act that he had no hesitation in recommending it to the notice of Government. Without going into it at length, he limited his statements to saying that whereas the Breach of Contract Act, and also the measure recently pressed on the attention of the Government of India by the Planters of Southern India, were both of an almost purely punitive character, the Act now suggested was mainly of a preventive character and sought by limiting the amount of advances, and registering every advance given, to prevent dishonest coolies from obtaining advances from various Planters throughout the country with a view of defrauding all of them. In other words, the Breach of Contract Act and the proposed Act of the Wynaad Planters enables an employer to punish a dishonest coolie if he can catch him, while the Advances to Laborers

Act, as now proposed, would make extremely difficult and indeed almost impossible for a cooly who was under an advance from one planter to obtain an advance from another until the first advance was paid off. And by limiting the sums advanced to each person to ten Rupees, the proposed Act would tend to bring the whole advance system within reasonable limits, and enormously diminish the risk of loss in working coffee estates. Indeed Mr. Elliott would sooner have the registration sections of the proposed Act even without any penalty embodied in them than he would have the present Breach of Contract Act, and the proposed sections of the Indian Planter's Act, bristling as these were with all the penalties that human ingenuity could devise. Mr. Elliott's draft had been sent to the various Planters' Associations, and while the subject of fresh legislation is under consideration, he would draw attention to the great inconvenience and embarrassment which were caused by certain rulings of the Chief Court which appeared to Mr. Elliott to be at entire variance with the provisions of Act XIII of 1859, the existing law on the subject of Criminal Breaches of Contract of Service. The statute of limitation does not apply to Criminal cases, and the Act is made applicable to *verbal contracts* as well as written contracts. But in case No. 241 of 1891, the Chief Court have ruled the contrary. Again the Act prescribes no limit to the advances to which it should be applied, much less does it say that it is not applicable to cases of small advances. Small and large are relative terms which have no place in the Act, and yet in case No. 156 of 1891, the Chief Court ruled that cases in which the advances are small sums are not to be taken cognizance of by Magistrates. Again in case No. 285 of 1891, the Magistrate who first decided the case, split up the obligation under contract and directed the laborer to repay a portion of the advance and to work out the remainder. This was wrong under the Act; and the Chief Court instead of correcting the mistake, and amending the decision, where such amendment was necessary, quashed it altogether. It may be that a time should always be fixed for performance of a contract or repayment of a loan, but no provision to this effect exists in the Act; and a ruling to this effect as well as other rulings above mentioned appear to Mr. Elliott to be enforcing provisions unknown to the law and to the framers of the law. Judges have only to administer the law and not to make law. And that the Judges should nevertheless have ruled as already pointed out was an additional proof of the necessity for a better and an unmistakable law.

Dewan's reply.— The proposed measure will receive due consideration in the Legislative Department of Government. As to the rulings of the Chief Court criticised by Mr. Elliott, it need only be pointed out that the Chief Court in this respect, like High Courts in British India, are doing

their best to administer the Act with justice, and if the result was unsatisfactory, this was due to the essentially unsatisfactory nature of the Act itself. The Government of Mysore would watch the course of legislation in British India, and do all that may be found practicable in the interests of the laborers and the employers of labor in Mysore.

Subject No. 4.

Amendment of the Rules for the grant of waste lands for planting timber and fuel trees.

Summary of Representation.—Under Rule III, Appendix H, to the Rules under the Land Revenue Code, 20 per cent of the land comprised in the grant of waste land for the planting of forest and fuel trees should be planted with trees within the first year of the grant. This provision made the whole set of rules useless as the first year will be fully required for making nurseries, wells and fences. The rules should be so amended as to require planting from second year.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestion is good and shall be adopted. The only modification required is to read the words "within the second year" instead of the words "within the first year," in lines 1 and 2; it will also be necessary to read the words "within six years" instead of the words "within five years" in the 3rd line.

Subject No. 5.

Appointment of an Agricultural Chemist.

Summary of Representation.—A Chemist at a fixed salary should be appointed for Mysore who will be competent to advise on agricultural practice, cattle disease, &c., and give lectures on such subjects. Mysore is an essentially agricultural country and the services of an agricultural Chemist would prove very useful and valuable. The Government of India were going to appoint one for British India.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestion is generally good and will be noted for consideration. It is doubtful however that an officer of the kind proposed will make an impression on agricultural practice, the fact being that land is available in such abundance that high farming is not likely to be profitable or to be preferred by raiyats. He can be useful in curing or preventing cattle disease.

Subject No. 6.

British interference with proposed Irrigation works in Mysore

Summary of Representation.—The Assembly proposes that the Mysoreans should be allowed to have the full use of the water of Mysore for irrigation purposes, and be freed from any interference on the part of the Madras Government as long as the water, or what is left of it, is restored to its original channel. In Mr. Elliott's opinion the proper way of looking at the whole subject was this. It had once been proposed that Mysore should be annexed, and had it been so, there could be no doubt that it would now form a part of the Madras Presidency. Had it been so annexed, would the Madras Government have limited the supply of water to the people in the Mysore portion of its dominion in order to benefit raiyats in other parts of the Presidency? Such a policy would be as impolitic as it would be wrong, and for the simple reason that the further water was transmitted, the greater was the waste